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ABSTRACT

A survey of child care arrangements for Nebraska preschoolers was conducted in 1988 and documented characteristics of child care arrangements used in 1988 by Nebraska parents with preschool-age children and identified household characteristics associated with different types of child care. This report is organized in four parts. Methodology is discussed in the introduction. Following this, an overview of preschool child care arrangements covers characteristics of the working parent household, and working and nonworking parent child care arrangements. The next section, on child care alternatives, discusses: (1) characteristic differences in child care arrangements (in terms of provider and location, group size, fees, and the need for alternative arrangements); (2) characteristics of working parent households according to type of child care arrangement; and (3) most- and least-liked aspects of care arrangements. The report concludes with a consideration of implications for child care policy that focuses on access to child care depending on income and residence, and the process of regulating home care. Appendices A and B contain the survey instruments. There are 10 tables and 11 figures. (SH)

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A Survey Of Parents On Child Care Arrangements

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Nebraska
Preschool Child Care: 1988

A Survey of Parents on Child Care Arrangements

Patricia E. Funk
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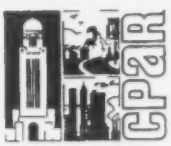

Center for Public Affairs Research
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June 1990

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Introduction

A survey of child care arrangements for Nebraska preschool children was conducted in 1988 by the Center for Applied Urban Research (now, Center for Public Affairs Research), University of Nebraska at Omaha, under the direction of Dr. Christine Reed. The purposes of the survey were to document the characteristics of the child care arrangements used in 1988 by Nebraska parents with preschool-age children and to identify household characteristics associated with the different types of child care that parents chose.

Results from the survey were incorporated with other research data into the report, "Child Day Care Policy Issues in Nebraska" (Reed 1988). The purpose of this report is to provide a more detailed analysis and discussion of the results of that survey.

Methodology

A telephone survey was administered during June of 1988 to Nebraska parents who were the primary caregivers for their preschool-age children. Respondents were randomly selected from a list of Nebraska households with children younger than six years of age. Separate samples of equal size were drawn from the Omaha area[1] and the rest of the state.

The survey had two distinct components: one for primary caregivers who were currently employed and one for those who were not currently employed.[2] Separate samples of households were drawn randomly for each component.

Each household sampled was first screened to confirm the presence of a preschool-age child. Next the identity and employment status of the primary caregiver were established. For the first survey component, the household was included only if the primary caregiver was currently employed. For the second component, the household was included only if the primary caregiver was not currently employed. Separate questionnaires were administered to the two groups of parents concerning regular child care arrangements for the youngest preschool child, and various household characteristics.

A total of 523 households were sampled for the "working parent" component and 273 households for the "non-working parent" component.[3] Because the sample was disproportionately drawn from the Omaha area, the statewide totals for the two survey components were weighted to reflect the estimated distribution of preschool children in Nebraska across metropolitan and non-metropolitan counties in 1988. The weighted responses to each survey component are presented in Appendices A and B.

The following sections provide an overview of the findings, a comparative analysis of different types of child care, and a discussion of the implications for child care policy and future policy research needs.

Overview of Preschool Child Care Arrangements

Traditionally parents took separate roles as child care provider (usually the mother) and breadwinner (usually the father). Today, the majority of households with preschool children no longer fit that traditional mold. Nationally, 57.1 percent of married women with children under the age of six are in the labor force (U.S. Bureau of the Census 1989). These families, as well as those with a working, single parent, must make regular arrangements for child care. In addition, a small proportion of households in which the primary caregiver is not employed also use regular child care arrangements.

Households in which the primary caregiver is employed are referred to as working parent households in this report. The others are called non-working parent households. In this report,

the term *parent* refers to the one who is the primary caregiver, while the term *spouse* refers to the other parent.

Working parents included in this survey were interviewed about the primary child care arrangements for their youngest preschool child during the hours they worked. Information about other characteristics of the household was also obtained in the interview.

This section of the report provides an overview of the findings of this survey. The remaining sections examine differences in child care arrangements, factors influencing parental choice of care, and implications for public policy.

Characteristics of Working Parent Households

Table 1 summarizes characteristics of working parent households. The primary caregiver for the children, regardless of his or her employment status, usually was reported to be the mother. However, the proportion of cases in which the father was the primary caregiver was significantly higher in working parent households (14.3 percent) than in non-working parent households (1.0 percent). In both groups, nearly all the primary caregivers were currently married (over 96 percent).

The working parent households averaged fewer preschool children than did non-working parent households (1.4 vs. 1.6 per household). Working parents also were less likely to have a child under one year of age (10.4 percent vs. 20.7 percent), a finding that is compatible with national data that show that labor force participation by women with preschool children increases with the age of the youngest child (U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics 1986).

Household incomes were higher in working parent households, with 37.7 percent reporting incomes of $35,000 or more compared with only 22.8 percent of non-working parents. Likewise, only 7.3 percent of working parent households reported incomes of less than $15,000, compared with 16.7 percent of the non-working parent households. One obvious reason for the difference is the impact of the additional wage earner in the working parent households.

Most of the employed primary caregivers in the survey worked full-time in 1988 (71.2 percent) and during daytime hours (86.9 percent).

Working Parent Child Care Arrangements

The general characteristics of child care arrangements in 1988 for the youngest preschool child of working parents in Nebraska are summarized in table 2. Most child care arrangements were in a home setting (82.4 percent), including 27 percent in the child's home and 55.4 percent in the provider's home (see figure 1). About half of the providers (53.3 percent) had a specified relationship to the child or family, including parent (20.3 percent), other relative (10.6 percent), or friend or neighbor (22.5 percent) (see figure 2).

Child care arrangements during the hours the primary parent worked tended to be full-time: most preschool children in working parent households were in care for at least six hours a day (80.8 percent), and half were for more than eight hours a day (50.5 percent).

There was no fee charged for child care in one quarter of the cases (24.6 percent). When fees were charged, 44.3 percent were $50 or higher per week. Just over one-tenth (11.4 percent) of the working parents had an additional child care arrangement on a regular basis. The majority of working parents (64.1 percent) reported they stayed home from work when the child was ill.

On average, the youngest preschool child in these households was cared for in a group that was fairly small (median number of children per group was 3.4). Only 38.8 percent of the child care arrangements were regulated by the state through registration or licensing.

Table 1. Characteristics of Nebraska Households with Preschool Children by Employment Status of Primary Caregiver, 1988

			Tests of Difference Between Groups			
	Employed	Not Employed*	Statistic Value		df	p.
	- Percentage of Households -					
Primary caregiver:						
Mother	85.7	99.0				
Father	14.3	1.0				
Total	100.0	100.0	Chi-Square	45.30	1	.01
Marital status:						
Currently married	96.4	96.1				
Widowed/divorced/separated/single	3.6	3.9				
Total	100.0	100.0	Chi-Square	0.04	1	NS
Age of youngest preschool child:						
Under one year	10.4	20.7				
One to five years	89.6	79.3				
Total	100.0	100.0	Chi-Square	16.40	1	.01
Employment:						
Full time	71.2	NA				
Part time	28.8	NA				
Total	100.0	NA				
Work shifts:						
Day time	86.9	NA				
Evenings/nights/varies	13.1	NA				
Total	100.0	NA				
Annual household income:						
Less than $15,000	7.3	16.7				
$15,000 to $34,999	55.0	60.5				
$35,000 and above	37.7	22.8				
Total	100.0	100.0	Chi-Square	27	2	.01
	- Number of Children -					
Average number of preschool-age children in household:	1.4	1.6	F	37.1	1,792	.01
Average number of total children in household:	2.3	2.7	F	36.3	1,792	.01
	- Age of Child -					
Average age of youngest preschool child:	3.0	3.4	F	8.8	1,795	.01

NS = Not significant.
NA = Not applicable.
Note: All totals exclude cases with missing values.
*Includes full-time homemakers, students, recipients of disability or AFDC, those seeking employment, those involved in job training programs, and those on temporary or seasonal lay-off.

3

Table 2. Selected Characteristics of Primary Child Care Arrangements Used by Nebraska Working Parent Households* for the Youngest Preschool-Age Child, 1988

	Percentage of Households
Location of Care Arrangement:	
Child's home	27.0
Neighbor's home	14.9
Other's home	40.5
Parent's non-home workplace	0.9
Organized care facility	16.8
Total	100.1
Care Provider:	
Parent while working	9.1
Spouse	11.2
Sibling (14 years & older)	0.7
Other relative	9.9
Friend/neighbor	22.5
Other	46.7
Total	100.1
Regulation status of arrangement:	
Registered/licensed	38.8
Not registered/licensed	61.2
Total	100.0
Category of Care Arrangement:	
Immediate Family Care	20.9
Informal Home Day Care	40.3
Registered Home Day Care	22.0
Organized Group Care	16.8
Day Care Center (15.0)	
Preschool (1.7)	
Special Program (0.1)	
Total	100.0
Hours of Care:	
Fewer than 6	19.2
6 to 8	30.3
More than 8	50.5
Total	100.0
Weekly Fee:	
No charge	24.6
Less than $25	8.2
$25 - $49	33.8
$50 - $74	27.0
$75 and above	6.4
Total	100.0
Regular child care arrangements for child:	
Use only one	88.6
Use two or more	11.4
Total	100.0
Care provider when child is ill:	
Usual provider	19.6
Parent stays home	64.1
Other	16.3
Total	100.0
Median number of children in care group	3.4

Note: All totals exclude cases with missing values. Totals do not necessarily equal 100 due to rounding.
*Households in which the primary caregiver for a preschool-age child is employed.

Figure 1. Location of Child Care for Youngest Preschool Child of Nebraska Working Parents, 1988

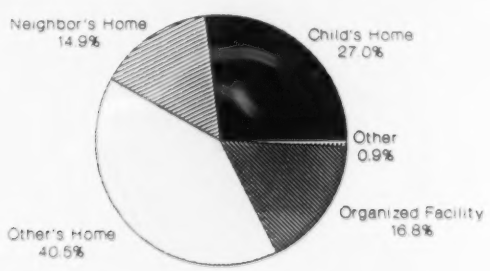
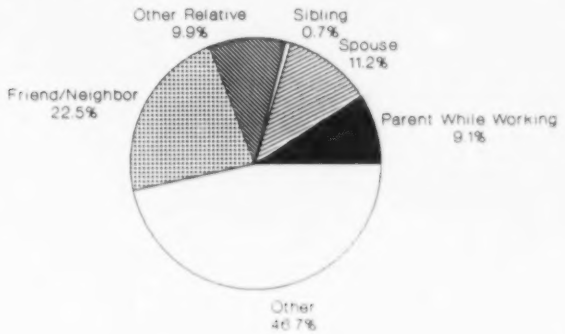


Figure 2. Child Care Provider for Youngest Preschool Child of Nebraska Working Parents, 1988

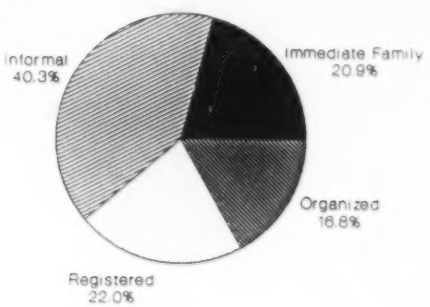


The regular child care arrangements for the youngest preschool children in working parent households were classified into four broad categories: immediate family care, informal home day care (unregistered), registered home day care, and organized group care through day care centers and preschools. The proportion of working parent households utilizing each of these arrangements is shown in table 2 and figure 3.

Immediate Family Care. One-fifth (20.9 percent) of the working parent households kept child care within the immediate family—care was provided by the parent while working (usually self-employed at home), the spouse, or, rarely, a sibling (14 years of age or older in all cases). Care by a parent self-employed as a child care provider was classified as immediate family care.

Informal Home Day Care. The predominant preschool child care arrangement in Nebraska (40.3 percent) was through the informal child care market, with care provided in an unregistered, private home by someone other than a parent or sibling. These arrangements were located either in the child's home or in the provider's home. Most informal home day care arrangements did not meet the criteria for compulsory registration in Nebraska: care for more than three children (other than the provider's own children) from more than one family. (See

Figure 3. Type of Child Care for Youngest Preschool Child of Nebraska Working Parents, 1988



"Implications for Child Care Policy" for a discussion of registration compliance among home day care providers).

Registered Home Day Care. The preschool child was cared for in a registered private home by someone other than a parent or sibling in slightly more than one-fifth (22.0 percent) of the arrangements made by working parents. Registration involves self-certification of compliance with various health and safety regulations, including limits on the number of infants and children. (Some of the requirements for registration are described in the preceding description of informal home day care.)

Organized Group Care. The arrangement least utilized by working parents was some form of organized group care, outside a home setting (16.8 percent). This usually was a licensed day care center, but organized care also included preschools and special programs.

Non-Working Parent Child Care Arrangements

Only a minority (12.8 percent) of non-working parent households utilized a regular child care arrangement other than care by the primary caregiver (see table 3). Non-working parents who utilized child care were twice as likely to use organized care as were working parents.

Table 3. Child Care Arrangements for Youngest Preschool Child of Non-Working Parent Households,* 1988

		Percentage of Households
Child care:		
Use a regular arrangement		12.8
Do not use a regular arrangement		87.2
Total		100.0
Category of Care Arrangement (households using regular child care):		
Immediate Family Care		9.8
Spouse	(5.2)	
Sibling (14 years & older)	(4.6)	
Informal Home Day Care		38.8
Registered Home Day Care		16.9
Organized Group Care		34.5
Day Care Center	(26.6)	
Preschool	(7.9)	
Total		100.0
Reasons given for not using regular child care (households not using regular child care):		
No need to		50.9
Important to stay home with children		40.2
Don't trust others		2.5
Not available		0.9
Not affordable		5.5
Total		100.0

*Households in which the primary caregiver for a preschool-age child is not employed (full-time homemakers, students, recipients of disability or AFDC, those seeking employment, those involved in job training programs, and those on temporary or seasonal lay-off).

The principal reasons non-working parents gave for not using care were that they did not need to do so (50.9 percent) or they believed it was important to stay home with the child (40.2 percent) (see table 3). Only a small percentage (6.4 percent) indicated that availability or affordability of child care was the reason they did not use it.

Of those not using child care, 16 percent reported that they planned to use some in the near future. The principal intent was to use preschools (68.6 percent).

Child Care Alternatives: Arrangements and Household Differences

The preschool child care arrangements that working parents choose are influenced by characteristics of both the household and the types of care available. This section reviews those characteristics identified in the survey that provided the most distinction among the four major types of child care.

Characteristic Differences in Child Care Arrangements

The basic characteristics of each type of child care are summarized in table 4.

Provider and Location

Immediate family care was nearly always provided by a parent in the child's home. Organized group care, on the other hand, was always provided by a non-relative outside the child's home. Informal and registered home day care, however, varied in the child's relationship to the provider and the location where care was provided (see figures 4 and 5).

Care was much more likely to be in the child's home under informal care than registered care (16.8 percent vs. 0.5 percent). (This excludes the few cases where the parent was self-employed as a child care provider, which were classified as immediate family care.) Care was also more likely to be at a neighbor's home under informal care than under registered care (27.0 percent vs. 17.6 percent).

A relative was more likely to provide care under informal arrangements than under registered arrangements (22.8 percent vs. 3.8 percent), as were friends and neighbors (44.2 percent vs. 21.5 percent).

Group Size

Because registration and licensing regulations stipulate thresholds and ceilings on the numbers of children, differences in group size by type of care were to be expected (see figure 6). Organized care had a median care group size of 14.2 children, nearly three times that of registered home day care arrangements (5.3). Informal home care groups were only slightly larger than immediate family care groups, both averaging fewer than three children (2.5 and 1.9, respectively). In this survey, 9.8 percent of registered home day care arrangements were reported to have more than eight children, and are presumed to be group day care homes.

Fees

Types of care differed considerably in the proportion charging no fees (see figure 7). Only 10 percent of the parents using immediate family care reported paying a weekly fee. This may have included paying a sibling as well as fees paid for an additional regular arrangement. A small percentage of informal home day care was provided at no charge to the parent (13.5 percent), in most cases by a relative. Registered home day care and organized group care were rarely provided without charge.

Table 4. Selected Characteristics of Child Care Arrangements for the Youngest Preschool Child of Nebraska Working Parent Households,* 1988

	Type of Child Care				
	Immediate Family	Informal Home	Registered Home	Organized Group	Total
	- Percentage of Arrangements -				
Location of care:					
Child's home	95.8	16.8	0.5	0.0	27.0
Neighbor's home	0.0	27.0	17.6	0.0	14.9
Other	4.2	56.2	82.0	100.0	58.2
Total	100.0	100.0	100.1	100.0	100.1
Care provider:					
Relative	100.0	22.8	3.8	0.0	30.8
Friend/Neighbor	0.0	44.2	21.5	0.0	22.5
Other	0.0	32.9	74.7	100.0	46.7
Total	100.0	99.9	100.0	100.0	100.0
Weekly fee:					
No Charge	90.0	13.5	1.7	1.1	25.1
Less than $25	4.3	13.2	3.5	6.5	8.1
$25 - $49	4.8	32.8	59.2	40.7	33.8
$50 - $74	0.9	30.5	29.2	44.8	26.4
$75 and above	0.0	10.0	6.4	6.9	6.6
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Hours of care per day:					
Fewer than 6	26.7	21.0	11.6	14.8	19.2
6 to 8	18.8	32.0	37.3	29.7	29.9
More than 8	54.4	47.0	51.0	55.5	50.9
Total	99.9	100.0	99.9	100.0	100.0
Regular care arrangements for child:					
Only one used	82.0	88.9	91.4	91.6	88.4
Two or more used	18.0	11.1	8.6	8.4	11.6
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Care provider when child is ill:					
Usual provider	45.3	17.9	9.9	4.9	19.6
Parent stays home	33.0	72.9	70.4	73.2	64.1
Other	21.7	9.2	19.8	22.0	16.3
Total	100.0	100.0	100.1	100.1	100.0
	- Number of Children -				
Median number of children in care group:	1.9	2.5	5.3	14.2	3.4

Note: All totals exclude cases with missing values. Totals do not necessarily equal 100 due to rounding.
*Households in which the primary caregiver for the preschool-age child is employed.

Figure 4. Location of Child Care for Youngest Preschool Child of Nebraska Working Parents, by Type of Child Care, 1988

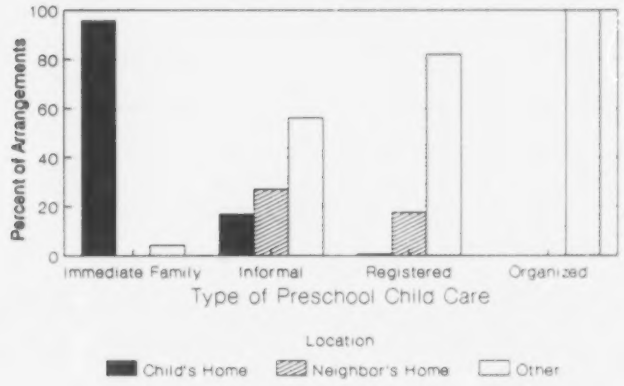


Figure 5. Child Care Provider for Youngest Preschool Child of Nebraska Working Parents, by Type of Child Care, 1988

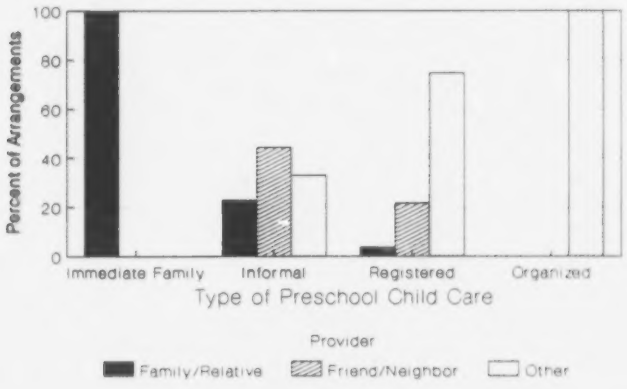


Figure 6. Median Group Size by Type of Child Care for Youngest Preschool Child of Nebraska Working Parents, 1988

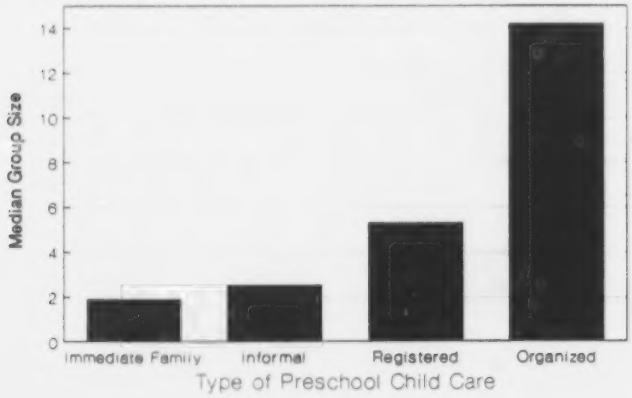
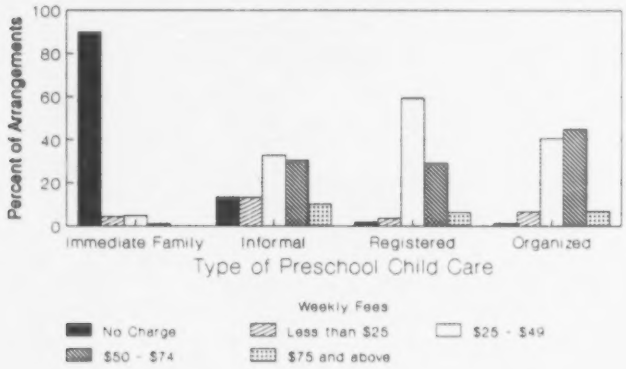


Figure 7. Fees for Child Care for Youngest Preschool Child of Nebraska Working Parents, by Type of Child Care, 1988



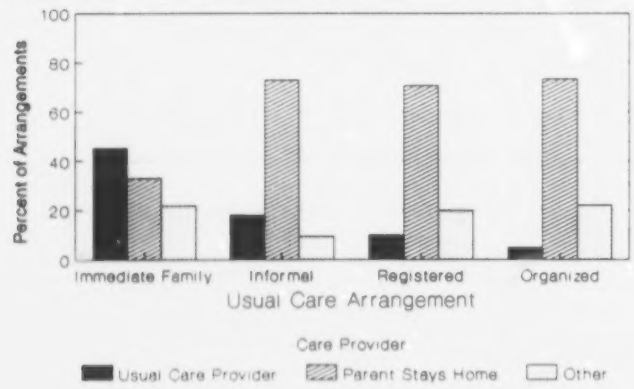
When fees were charged, organized group care was the most expensive, with over half the parents (51.7 percent) paying $50 or more a week. Surprisingly, informal home day care fees (excluding the no-charge cases) were higher than registered ones, (46.8 percent vs. 36.2 percent at $50 or more per week). There was no clear explanation for this difference, especially since the hours of care were slightly shorter with informal care (79 percent vs. 88.3 percent at 6 or more hours a day).

Need for Alternative Arrangements

Some parents used more than one regular child care arrangement for their youngest preschool children. Those using immediate family care were most likely to use additional regular child care arrangements (in 18 percent of the cases), reflecting, perhaps, some logistical difficulties faced by working parents who provide their own preschool child care.

Parents reported that they often needed to make alternative arrangements when the child was ill (see figure 8). While this was least likely to be needed under immediate family care, fewer than half (45.3 percent) of the parents in the immediate family care group reported that the provider still cared for an ill child. The primary caregiver stayed home from work in 33 percent of the cases.

Figure 8. Arrangement When Ill for Youngest Preschool Child of Nebraska Working Parents, by Type of Child Care, 1988



There was no significant difference among informal home day care, registered home day care, and organized group care in the proportion of primary caregivers who reported they stayed home from work (over 70 percent). The child care provider was just one of the alternatives for the 25 to 30 percent of parents who did not stay home from work to care for an ill child. Other alternatives included the spouse and relatives, friends and neighbors who did not regularly provide care for the child.

Characteristics of Working Parent Households by Type of Child Care Arrangement

The characteristics of working parent households using each type of child care arrangement are summarized in table 5.

Family Structure and Size

Family structure characteristics, such as whether the mother or father was the primary caregiver and the marital status of the parent, were not closely related to type of child care arranged.

There was little difference in the average number of preschool children in the household by care type (the range was 1.3 to 1.5 children). However, there were more total children on average in the households that used immediate family care (2.8) than in those that used informal care (2.2) or formal care (2.1).

Employment and Income

There were significant differences in the employment patterns of the working, primary caregiver by type of child care (see figure 9). Parents using immediate family care were more likely to work part time and more likely to work evening and night shifts than were other groups. Part-time employment also was more characteristic of informal home day care users than parents using registered home care or organized group care arrangements. It's not clear to what extent the requirements of immediate family care and informal care limited the parents to certain employment hours and shifts, and to what extent the hours and shifts that the parents worked restricted the type of child care available to them.

Working parent households using immediate family care and informal home day care were more likely to have very low household incomes (less than $15,000) than were the others (see figure 10). This may have been a consequence of less full-time employment in these groups. Relatively few households using family care (19.4 percent) had incomes of $35,000 or more. By contrast, over 40 percent of households using other types of care had incomes of $35,000 or more (ranging from 40.9 percent to 46.0 percent). The level of household income, as with employment patterns, was probably both a cause and effect of the choice of child care arrangement (see "Implication for Child Care Policy" for further discussion of the impact of income on child care arrangements).

Residence

There was a significant relationship between type of child care used and metropolitan vs. non-metropolitan residence (see figure 11). There was no difference among immediate family, informal and registered home day care groups in the proportion of households living in a metropolitan county. Households using organized care, however, were much more likely to be located in metropolitan counties (61.1 percent) than were other households (44.0 percent).

Table 5. Selected Characteristics of Working Parent Households* in Nebraska by Type of Care Arranged for Youngest Preschool Child, 1988

	Type of Child Care					Tests of Difference Among Groups		
	Immediate Family	Informal Home	Registered Home	Organized Group	Total	Statistic Value	df	p.
	- Percentage of Households -							
Primary caregiver:								
Mother	89.8	87.6	79.6	84.6	85.9			
Father	10.2	12.4	20.4	15.4	14.1			
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	Chi-Square 5.5	3	NS
Marital status:								
Currently married	99.1	96.5	99.5	88.5	96.4			
Widowed/divorced/ separated/single	0.9	3.5	0.5	11.5	3.7			
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.1†			
Age of youngest child:								
Less than one year	14.6	9.7	13.3	4.3	10.6			
One to five years	85.4	90.3	86.7	95.7	89.4			
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	Chi-Square 6.5	3	NS
Employment:								
Full-time	54.7	67.9	86.8	79.8	71.1			
Part-time	45.3	32.1	13.2	20.2	28.9			
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	Chi-Square 31.4	3	.01
Work shifts:								
Day time	74.1	90.6	85.9	94.8	86.8			
Evening/night/variable	25.9	9.4	14.1	5.2	13.2			
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	Chi-Square 22.8	3	.01
Annual household income:								
Less than $15,000	8.4	9.7	3.5	6.1	7.4			
$15,000 to $34,999	72.2	49.4	50.4	50.6	54.7			
$35,000 and above	19.4	40.9	46.0	43.4	37.9			
Total	100.0.	100.0	99.9	100.1	100.0	Chi-Square 22.5	6	.01
County of residence:								
Metropolitan	42.4	43.7	45.1	61.1	46.7			
Non-metropolitan	57.6	56.3	54.9	38.9	53.3			
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	Chi-Square 8.9	3	.05
	- Number of Children -							
Average number of preschool children in household:	1.5	1.4	1.4	1.3	1.4	F 5.1	3,509	NS
Average number of total children in household:	2.8	2.2	2.1	2.1	2.3	F 14.8	3,509	.01
	- Age of Child -							
Average age of youngest preschool child:	3.1	3.1	3.3	2.7	3.1	F 2.3	3,509	NS

NS = Not significant.
Note: All totals exclude cases with missing values. Totals do not necessarily equal 100 due to rounding.
*Households in which the primary caregiver for preschool-age child is employed.
†Percentage of cells with expected frequency of less than 5 is too high to calculate Chi-Square statistic.

Figure 9. Employment of Working Primary Caregiver in Nebraska, by Type of Child Care, 1988

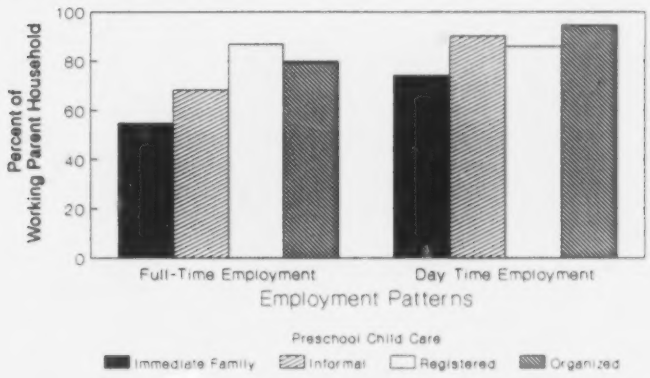


Figure 10. Household Income for Nebraska Families With Working Parents, by Type of Child Care, 1988

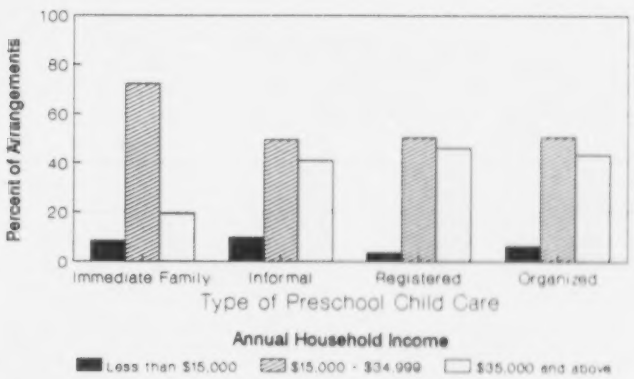
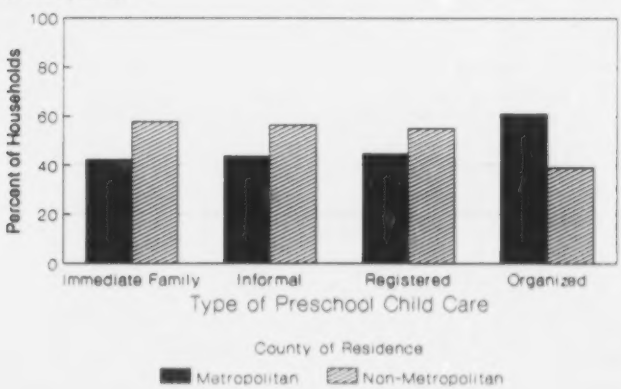


Figure 11. Residence of Nebraska Families With Working Parents, by Type of Child Care, 1988



This was particularly true for preschools, which were used only by survey households located in metropolitan and large urban counties.

When non-metropolitan counties were classified as large urban, small urban, and rural based on the population of the largest town in the county (see table 9 for definitions), no relationship was found between county of residence and type of child care. (The impact of residence on the choice of child care arrangements is discussed further under "Implications for Child Care Policy.")

Most Liked and Least Liked Aspects of Care Arrangements

Parents were asked, in open-ended questions, what they liked most and what they liked least about their primary child care arrangements. The responses were coded into four broad categories: cost, convenience, provider/setting (for example, [not] being able to care for one's own child, the provider's reliability or trustworthiness, a home setting, safety, exposure to illness) and child interaction with the caregiver or playmates (for example, affection, learning, quality of time with provider, isolation, [not] having playmates, exposure to different values). The category "nothing" was also included in the "like least" list. Table 6 summarizes the aspects parents liked most and least by type of child care arrangement.

Most Liked Aspect

The provider/setting was primarily the most liked aspect of care for all arrangements except organized care. This aspect was particularly important to those using immediate family care,

Table 6. Aspects of Preschool Child Care Arrangements Parents Liked Most and Least by Type of Child Care for Nebraska Working Parent Households,* 1988

	Type of Child Care				
	Immediate Family	Informal Home	Registered Home	Organized Group	Total
	- Percentage of Households -				
Aspect parent liked most:					
Cost	16.9	0.7	3.5	1.7	4.9
Convenience	16.0	28.5	26.5	33.0	26.1
Provider/setting	65.5	43.4	44.1	21.9	44.5
Child interaction	1.6	27.4	25.9	43.4	24.4
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	99.9
Chi-Square = 105.9, df = 9, p. .01					
Aspect parent liked least:					
Nothing	54.4	55.3	50.4	51.9	53.6
Cost	3.3	4.3	7.6	11.8	6.0
Convenience	19.2	15.0	22.6	15.6	17.6
Provider/setting	6.3	12.8	8.7	4.6	9.2
Child interaction	16.7	12.7	10.7	16.2	13.7
Total	99.9	100.1	100.0	100.1	100.1
Chi-Square = 18.33, df = 12, NS					

NS = Not significant.
Note: All totals exclude cases with missing values. Totals do not necessarily equal 100 due to rounding.
*Households in which the primary caregiver for a preschool-age child is employed.

who usually responded that caring for their own child was what they liked most. Child interaction was the primary most liked aspect for parents using day care centers and preschools. Immediate family care parents were more likely to list cost as the most liked factor than were other parents, and they were least likely to list convenience and child interaction.

Least Liked Aspect

There was no significant difference by type of care in what parents liked least about their child care arrangement. The majority of working parents (53.6 percent) responded that there was nothing they liked least about the arrangement, suggesting that they were quite satisfied with it. Those who did identify an aspect were most likely to indicate the lack of convenience, except for the organized care group, which indicated child interaction as the least liked, as well as the most liked aspect. On the positive side, the availability of playmates and the affection and learning received were cited; on the negative side, too many children for quality time and exposure to different values were named.

Implications for Child Care Policy

Access to Child Care

Do the working parents of Nebraska's preschool children have adequate access to child care arrangements? The survey analysis found that the type of child care working parents arranged was significantly related to both income and residence (metropolitan/non-metropolitan). However, the study did not identify possible explanations for this difference.

Parents choose different child care arrangements for a variety of reasons. The issue is whether Nebraska parents generally have adequate access to the types of child care they prefer or whether some are constrained, by low incomes or lack of availability, to arrangements that are less preferred.

This survey did not address the issue of access directly, but responses to one of the questions provided indirect evidence about parental options. Working parents were asked to rate the importance of several factors in their choice of care on a five-point scale of 1 (most important) to 5 (least important). Two of the factors were: "Arrangement was the only one available at the time," and "Arrangement was the only one I could afford." A response of "1" or "2" to either of these factors was interpreted to mean that there was an important limitation on the parent's choice of child care.

Parents' reports of limited choice by type of care used are presented in table 7. Overall, 26.4 percent of the working parents responded that their arrangement was the only one available or affordable, and such responses were significantly related to the type of care used. Parents reporting limitations were twice as likely to choose immediate family care as parents not reporting limitations. Registered home day care arrangements and organized group care were utilized more by parents who did not report such limitations.

Income and Child Care Choices

Household income was found to be a significant factor in parental reports of limited choice of child care arrangements (see table 8): 45 percent of parents in low-income households (less than $15,000 annual income) reported that their child care arrangement was the only one available or affordable, compared to only 16 percent of those in high-income households (annual income of $35,000 or more).

Table 7. Availability and Affordability Limitations on Access to Preschool Child Care by Type of Care Used by Nebraska Working Parent Households,* 1988

Parent Reports Limitations On Access to Care†	Percentage of Households	Percentage of Households Using Each Type of Care: Immediate Family	Informal Home	Registered Home	Organized Group	Total
Yes	(26.4)	37.6	37.6	12.0	12.8	100.0
No	(73.6)	15.4	41.5	24.1	19.0	100.0
Total	(100.0)	21.4	40.3	20.9	17.3	99.9

Chi-Square = 31.9, df = 3, p. .01

Note: All totals exclude cases with missing values. Totals do not necessarily equal 100 due to rounding.
*Households in which the primary caregiver for a preschool-age child is employed.
†Parents indicated that an important factor in their choice of child care arrangement was that it was the only one available or the only one they could afford.

Parents in upper-income households were less likely to choose immediate family care and more likely to choose registered home day care and organized care than were low- and moderate-income households. Since family care was usually a "no-charge" arrangement, it is not surprising that it was utilized more often in low- and moderate-income households.

However, it is somewhat surprising that parents in low-income households, who were most likely to report limitations, were less likely than those in moderate-income households to choose immediate family care. One contributing factor may be the higher percentage of single parents in the low-income group, reducing the possibilities of the spouse sharing responsibilities in child care. In spite of their lower than expected use of family care, low-income households were more likely than others to have "no-charge" arrangements and they relied more heavily on relatives, friends and neighbors than did those with higher incomes.

Residence and Child Care Choices

No direct relationship was found between residence when it was classified into four groups (metropolitan, large urban, small urban, and rural based on the population of the largest town or city in the county) and limitations on parental choice of child care arrangement (see table 9). Although the proportion of parents reporting that their child care arrangement was the only available or affordable option was higher in the less populated counties, the difference was not significant.

Likewise, there was no overall difference among these four residence groups in the choice of child care arrangement. However, as discussed earlier, there was a significant relationship between type of care and metropolitan vs. non-metropolitan residence (see table 5). Working parents in metropolitan counties were more likely to choose organized care than were those in non-metropolitan counties. This difference is further highlighted by the fact that preschools were utilized only by parents in metropolitan and large urban counties.

Residence indirectly affects child care through differences in income distribution. Rural counties have a greater proportion of low- and moderate-income households than do the more urban counties. Any policy considerations for improved child care access by low-income parents needs to recognize that a disproportionate number of them live in rural counties.

Better information is needed about the impact of residence on the range of affordable preschool child care options available to Nebraska parents. In particular, it would be useful to

Table 8. Selected Household and Child Care Characteristics by Level of Annual Income for Nebraska Working Parent Households,* 1988

	Annual Household Income			
	Less Than $15,000	$15,000-$34,999	$35,000 and Above	Total
	- Percentage of Households -			
Parent-reported limitations on access to child care†:				
Yes	45.0	30.9	16.0	26.5
No	55.0	69.1	84.0	73.5
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
	Chi-Square = 18.4, df = 2, p. .01			
Marital status of caregiver:				
Married	85.9	96.3	98.1	96.2
Widowed/divorced/separated/single	14.1	3.7	1.9	3.8
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
	Chi-Square = 12.0, df = 2, p. .01			
Type of child care arrangement:				
Immediate family	23.9	27.3	10.7	20.8
Informal home	50.8	36.6	42.5	39.9
Registered home	10.4	19.6	26.2	21.4
Organized group	14.9	16.4	20.6	17.9
Total	100.0	99.9	100.0	100.0
	Chi-Square = 21.7, df = 6, p. .01			
Weekly fee for child care:				
No charge	37.4	29.9	13.8	24.3
Less than $25	15.6	7.7	6.2	7.7
$25-$49	27.2	38.2	30.0	34.3
$50-$74	14.6	20.9	39.6	27.4
$75 and above	5.2	3.4	10.5	6.2
Total	100.0	100.1	100.1	100.0
	Chi-Square = 44.2, df = 8, p. .01			
Child care provider:				
Family	23.9	27.3	10.7	20.8
Relative	16.1	9.7	9.1	10.0
Friend/neighbor	31.8	17.8	23.2	20.9
Other	28.2	45.1	57.0	48.4
Total	100.0	99.9	100.0	100.1
	Chi-Square = 25.6, df = 6, p. .01			

Note: All totals exclude cases with missing values. Totals do not necessarily equal 100 due to rounding.
*Households in which the primary caregiver for a preschool-age age child is employed.
†Parents reported that an important factor in their choice of child care was that it was the only one available or the only one they could afford.

examine the impact of residence based on the population of the community, which may be of more relevance to child care access than is the population class of county.

Regulating Home Care

Registration Compliance

The majority (61.2 percent) of working parent households with preschool children made child care arrangements in 1988 that were not regulated by the state of Nebraska. Although this included immediate family care, two-thirds of the non-regulated care was provided by someone outside the immediate family. Given the prevalence of this type of care, it is important

Table 9. Selected Characteristics and Type of Preschool Child Care Used by County of Residence for Nebraska Working Parent Households,* 1988

	County of Residence†				
	Metropolitan	Large-Urban	Small-Urban	Rural	Total
	- Percentage of Households -				
Parent reported limitations on access to child care:**					
Yes	23.3	27.4	31.1	30.2	26.5
No	76.7	72.6	68.9	69.8	73.5
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Chi-Square = 2.73, df = 3, p. NS					
Annual household income:					
Less than $15,000	4.2	8.3	11.9	10.8	7.3
$15,000 to $34,999	43.3	63.3	64.3	70.3	55.0
$35,000 and over	52.5	28.3	23.8	18.9	37.7
Total	100.0	99.9	100.0	100.0	100.0
Chi-Square = 42.9, df = 6, p. .01					
Type of child care arrangement:					
Immediate family	19.1	23.4	23.4	20.5	20.9
Informal home	39.1	40.6	46.8	45.5	40.3
Registered home	19.8	21.9	19.1	22.7	22.0
Organized group	22.0	14.1	10.6	11.4	16.8
Total	100.0	100.0	99.9	100.1	100.0
Chi-Square = 10.8, df = 9, p. NS					

NS = Not significant.
Note: All totals exclude cases with missing values. Totals do not necessarily equal 100 due to rounding.
*Households in which the primary caregiver for a preschool-age child is employed.
†Based on population of largest town in county in 1988:
Metropolitan = Standard Metropolitan Statistical Area (SMSA)
Large-Urban = Contains town of 10,000 or more population
Small-Urban = Largest town 2,500 - 9,999 population
Rural = Contains no town of 2,500 or more population
**Parents reported that an important factor in their choice of child care was that it was the only one available or the only one they could afford.

to know the extent to which this represents: a) arrangements that were not required to be registered; and b) underground arrangements that legally should have been registered.

Nebraska statutes require day care providers to register with the Nebraska Department of Social Services if care is for more than three children (excluding the provider's own children) from more than one family. In order to estimate the proportion of informal home care arrangements that were not in compliance, we used a registration requirement threshold of five children from more than one family. This was based on the assumption that, on average, one child in a multi-family home day care group was the provider's own child. Unregistered informal home care arrangements for five or more children from more than one family were classified as being non-compliant, or underground. Table 10 shows the distribution of home-based care by registration requirement status for each population class of county.

Approximately one fifth (20.8 percent) of informal (unregistered) home care arrangements for working parent households in this survey were classified as being non-compliant with Nebraska registration regulations. This underground care represents 8.4 percent of all child care arrangements for working parents in Nebraska in 1988. If we consider the underground and registered home day care arrangements to represent all home care arrangements that should be registered, then slightly more than one-quarter (27.5 percent) of home care arrangements that should be registered as day care homes are not in compliance.

This estimate of non-compliance should be viewed with caution due to the assumption about the provider's children and the questionable reliability of parental reports of total numbers of children and registration status. However, until more reliable information is available, this estimate should provide a useful ball-park figure.

Residence was found to be a factor in the regulation compliance of informal care arrangements. In rural counties, none of the unregistered homes were classified as underground based

Table 10. Registration Compliance Status of Informal (Unregistered) Home Day Care Arrangements for Preschool Children of Nebraska Working Parent Households,* 1988

	Population Class of County†				
	Metropolitan	Large-Urban	Small-Urban	Rural	Total
	- Percentage of Informal Home Day Care Arrangements -				
Registration not required:					
Single-family care	37.0	25.0	38.1	45.0	35.5
Multifamily 2-5 children**	40.0	45.8	38.1	55.0	43.7
Registration required:					
Multifamily 5+ children	23.0	29.2	23.8	0.0	20.8
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Chi-Square = 13.5, df = 6, p. .05					

Note: All totals exclude cases with missing values.
*Households in which the primary caregiver for a preschool-age child is employed.
†Based on population of largest town in county in 1988:
Metropolitan = Standard Metropolitan Statistical Area (SMSA)
Large-Urban = Contains town of 10,000 or more population
Small-Urban = Largest town 2,500 - 9,999 population
Rural = Contains no town of 2,500 or more population
**The provider's own children are not included in the threshold of four children for registration requirements. We added one child to the threshold to allow for one child, on average, to be the provider's own child.

on the numbers of children in care, whereas the non-compliance rate ranged from 23.0 percent to 29.2 percent of informal care arrangements in other counties.

Given the very small number of rural households in the sample (44), and the problems in estimating compliance discussed above, this finding should be treated with caution. It certainly is implausible that there were no underground day care homes in rural counties in 1988. It is noteworthy, though, that the survey did not find evidence that underground care was more prevalent in rural areas, given the relatively low incomes and the relatively high percentage of children per labor force member in rural counties in this region (Funk 1989).

Recent changes in federal income tax law, which now requires taxpayers to provide the social security number of the child care provider in order to claim a tax credit for child care, may spur some of the underground homes to register. The factors that keep some providers from registering with the state and the implications for children in underground care need to be closely examined to help formulate more effective child care policy.

Registration Guidelines

In 1988, most working parents of preschool children in Nebraska used child care arrangements that were unregulated. The reason was not so much the prevalence of underground care, but the fact that most care was in a home setting (82.4 percent). Most of the home care was not required to be registered because the caregiver was an immediate family member, care was for only one family, or care was provided to fewer than four children (excluding the provider's own children). Nebraska's home care rate in 1988 was somewhat above the national average of 76.1 percent for 1984-85 (Reed 1988).

Even considering only arrangements other than immediate family care, the majority of Nebraska preschool child care in 1988 was through informal home care arrangements. The majority of these unregulated arrangements were located outside the child's home, in a multi-family setting. Although the prevalence of home care for preschool children was above average in Nebraska, the percentage of care arrangements in the child's own home was found to be below the national average for preschool children with working mothers: 27.0 percent compared to 39.1 percent nationally in 1984-85 (Reed 1988). In other words, children were less likely to be cared for by a nanny or babysitter in the child's home and more likely to be in a day care home.

Because so many children are cared for in day care homes that are not regulated, serious consideration needs to be given to whether current registration and training requirements are adequate to ensure the health and welfare of Nebraska preschool-age children. It is especially important to know what standards parents would like to see applied for regulating day care homes, and what types of training they believe home day care providers should receive.

Better information is needed about working parents' current child care options and preferences across rural and urban Nebraska in order to formulate policies which will not only improve the quality of that care, but also provide better opportunities to access that care.

Endnotes

1. The Omaha area includes the Omaha address portion of Douglas County, which excludes addresses with Valley, Elkhorn, Waterloo and Bennington zip codes.
2. Primary caregivers who were not employed included full-time homemakers and students as well as those seeking employment, in job training programs, on temporary or seasonal layoff, collecting disability, or collecting AFDC.
3. Because the samples were drawn separately for the two survey components, it is not possible to estimate from the results the proportion of employed primary caregivers for preschool children in Nebraska in 1988.

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Appendices

Appendix A
Survey Instrument A

Employed Outside the Home or Self-Employed at Home

Weighted distribution of responses to each coded item.
N = 523

1. Identification number ___ A ___ ___ ___

2. Zip code ___ ___ ___ ___ ___

3. Father or Mother?
   14.3 1 Father
   85.7 2 Mother

I. In this first section, we need to collect some basic information about your child care needs.

4. Do you normally work year-round?
   (IS RESPONDENT PERMANENTLY EMPLOYED)

   88.8 1 Yes
   11.2 1 No
    0.0 9 No answer

5. What is your usual work schedule?
   (WRITE IN HOURS NEXT TO ANSWER)

   5a. First job

   64.1 1 Full time days _____
    1.6 2 Full time evenings _____
    2.6 3 Full time nights _____
   22.1 4 Part time days _____
    2.1 5 Part time evenings _____
    6.6 8 Other _____
    0.8 9 No answer

   5b. Second job

    0.0 1 Full time days _____
    0.0 2 Full time evenings _____
    0.0 3 Full time nights _____
    1.5 4 Part time days _____
    1.0 5 Part time evenings _____
    2.3 8 Other _____
   95.2 9 No answer

6. What is your primary occupation?

8.0 01 Executive, administrative, managerial
11.1 02 Teacher, librarian, counselor
10.6 03 Nurse, therapist
4.2 04 Daycare provider
6.0 05 Other professional
4.0 06 Technician
4.2 07 Sales
25.0 08 Administrative support, clerical
12.1 09 Service
1.0 10 Farming
1.3 11 Precision product, craft, repair
7.5 12 Operator, fabricator, laborer
5.1 88 Other (PLEASE INDICATE) _____
0.1 99 No answer

II. Now we need to collect some basic information about how your youngest child under 6 years is cared for while you are working.

7. What is the age of your youngest child under 6 years?

13.5 1 5-6 years old
16.3 2 4-5 years old
17.1 3 3-4 years old
19.8 4 2-3 years old
22.9 5 1-2 years old
10.4 6 Less than a year old
0.0 9 No answer

8. How is your youngest child usually cared for during most of the hours you are working?

8.2 01 In own home by self
11.2 02 In own home by spouse
0.7 03 In own home by sibling 14 years or older
0.0 04 In own home by sibling under 14 years
2.0 05 In own home by grandparent
0.5 06 In own home by other relative
4.4 07 In own home by nonrelative
5.1 08 In a grandparent's home
2.3 09 In other relative's home
14.9 10 In a neighbor's home
7.6 11 In a friend's home
25.5 12 In a family daycare home
15.0 13 In a daycare center
1.6 14 In a preschool or nursery school
0.2 15 In a program for children with special needs (PLEASE INDICATE)_____
_____
0.9 88 Other (PLEASE INDICATE) _____
0.0 99 No answer

9. About how many hours a day is your child cared for under this arrangement?

2.3 1 2 hours or less a day
16.9 2 3-5 hours a day
30.2 3 6-8 hours a day
50.4 4 More than 8 hours a day
0.3 9 No answer

10. Is this usually the only regular childcare arrangement for your youngest child?

88.5 1 Yes If yes, please go to question 13.
11.4 2 No (PROCEED BELOW)
0.1 9 No answer (GO TO QUESTION 13)

11. Please describe your second regular childcare arrangement while you are working.

2.9 01 In own home by spouse
0.7 02 In own home by sibling 14 years or older
0.3 03 In own home by sibling under 14 years
0.8 04 In own home by grandparent
0.1 05 In own home by other relative
0.9 06 In own home by nonrelative
1.5 07 In a grandparent's home
0.7 08 In other relative's home
1.0 09 In a friend's home
0.8 10 In a neighbor's home
0.3 11 In a family daycare home
0.7 12 In a daycare center
0.4 13 In a preschool or nursery school
0.1 14 In a program for children with special needs (PLEASE INDICATE) _____

0.3 88 Other (PLEASE INDICATE) _____
88.4 99 No answer

12. Please describe any additional childcare arrangements that you make on a regular basis for your youngest child while you are working.

_____
_____
_____
_____

13. What happens when your child is ill with something other than a common cold?

19.6 1 Provider still cares for child
12.4 2 Other family member cares for child
1.0 3 Friend or neighbor cares for child
64.1 4 I stay home with my child
0.1 5 Sick child care center
0.0 6 Sick child home care service
0.0 7 Child stays home alone
2.9 8 Other (PLEASE INDICATE) _____
0.0 9 No answer

III. Next, we would like to ask you some additional questions about the arrangement you described earlier for your youngest child during most of the hours you are working.

14. How did you find your child's caregiver?

3.7 01 Respondent operates own daycare home
23.1 02 Provider is a family member or relative
17.5 03 Provider is a neighbor or friend
27.8 04 A relative, friend, neighbor referred me
0.9 05 Child care referral organization referred me
1.3 06 Social worker or government agency referred me
8.9 07 Saw ad in newspaper or phone book
16.6 88 Other (PLEASE INDICATE) _____
0.2 99 No answer

15. About how long have you been using this arrangement?

9.0 1 Less than 6 months
13.8 2 6 months to 1 year
26.6 3 From 1 to 2 years
50.5 4 For more than 2 years

16. What is the weekly fee for this arrangement?

1.5 1 More than $100 a week
4.9 2 Between $75 and $100 a week
26.7 3 Between $50 and $75 a week
33.4 4 Between $25 and $50 a week
8.1 5 Less than $25 a week
24.4 6 No charge for childcare
1.0 9 No answer

17. About how many other children besides your own child are also cared for under this arrangement, during the same time period? (IF NONE, WRITE "00")

17a. Number of own children 100.0 0-8
0.0 99 No answer

17b. Number of other children 97.5 0-98
2.5 99 No answer

18. What do you like most about your current childcare arrangement?

_____
_____
_____
_____

19. What do you like least about your current childcare arrangement?

_____
_____
_____
_____

IV. Now I am going to read a short list of reasons that many people have for choosing a childcare arrangement. Would you please tell me how important each factor was in your choice of your primary childcare arrangement. On this scale, 1 is "most important" and 5 is "least important." (CIRCLE ONE NUMBER FOR EACH QUESTION; IF NO ANSWER, CIRCLE "9")

	Most 1 or 2	3	Least 4 or 5	NA 9
20. Arrangement was the only one available at the time	20.0	8.0	69.8	2.2
21. Arrangement was the only one I could afford	12.8	10.8	74.3	2.2
22. Arrangement was close to home	65.2	13.5	19.8	1.6
23. Arrangement was close to destination	41.3	15.8	40.5	2.4
24. I wanted a family member or relative taking care of my child	32.4	7.0	53.0	7.6
25. I wanted a small, "family" atmosphere for my child	69.1	12.1	17.2	1.5
26. I wanted trained childcare workers taking care of my child	46.1	19.4	28.9	5.7
27. I wanted my child to have a structured child development program	41.4	19.9	34.1	4.6

28. Is your current childcare arrangement licensed or registered with the state?

39.4 1 Yes
57.0 9 No
0.2 9 Don't know
3.4 9 No answer

V. We would like to ask you five final questions.

29. How many preschool age children (UNDER 6) live in your household? (INCLUDES YOUNGEST CHILD UNDER 6)

64.9 1 1 Child
32.0 2 2 Children
3.1 3 3 Children
0.0 9 No answer

30. What are their ages, beginning with the oldest?

(RECORD AGE)

30a.	100.0 Oldest under 6 years (1-5)		
30b.	35.2 Second oldest (1-4)	64.8 9	No additional children
30c.	3.3 Third oldest (1-4)	96.6 9	No additional children
30d.	0.0 Fourth oldest (1-3)	100.0 9	No additional children

31. How many school age children (6-18) live in your household? (IF NO CHILDREN, WRITE "00")

100.0 0-7
0.0 99 No answer

32. What is your marital status?

96.3 1 Married
0.1 2 Widowed
3.2 3 Separated or divorced
0.3 4 Single/never married
0.1 9 No answer

33. What is your annual combined household income?

0.1 01 Under $5,000
0.4 02 $5,000 to $9,999
6.2 03 $10,000 to $14,999
11.4 04 $15,000 to $19,999
11.9 05 $20,000 to $24,999
26.6 06 $25,000 to $34,999
22.9 07 $35,000 to $49,999
9.4 08 $50,000 to $74,999
1.9 09 $75,000 and over
9.3 99 No answer

Appendix B
Survey Instrument B

Unemployed
(Full time homemakers, students, recipients of disability or AFDC, those seeking employment, those involved in job training programs, and those on temporary or seasonal lay-off)

Weighted distribution of responses to each coded item.
N = 273

1. Identification number ___ B ___ ___ ___

2. Zip code ___ ___ ___ ___ ___

3. Father or Mother?
   1.0 1 Father
   99.0 2 Mother

I. In this first section, we need to collect some basic information about you as the primary caregiver for your children.

34. Which of the following describes your situation at the present time? (READ EACH CATEGORY AND CHECK IF IT APPLIES OR NOT)

	Applies	Does not apply	No answer
34a. Full time homemaker	96.0	4.0	9
34b. Full time student	5.9	94.1	9
34c. Part time student	3.2	96.8	9
34d. Looking for work	7.6	92.4	9
34e. Job training program	0.0	100.0	9
34f. Temporary or seasonal layoff	2.8	97.2	9
34g. Collecting disability, or Aid to Families with Dependent Children	3.4	96.6	9

II. Now we need to collect some basic information about how your youngest child under 6 years is cared for each day.

35. What is the age of your youngest child under 6 years?

   12.7 1 5-6 years old
   11.0 2 4-5 years old
   16.7 3 3-4 years old
   16.0 4 2-3 years old
   23.0 5 1-2 years old
   20.7 6 Less than 1 year old
   0.0 9 No answer

36. Does someone other than yourself take care of your child during a portion of each day while you are away from the home? (EXCLUDE SHOPPING, DRIVING OTHER CHILDREN TO ACTIVITIES, SOCIAL REASONS)

   12.8 1 Yes (SKIP TO SECTION III)
   87.2 2 No (COMPLETE THIS SECTION)

37. What would you say is the major reason why you do not use a regular child care arrangement, other than yourself, at the present time?

_____
_____
_____
_____

38. Do you have plans to send your youngest child to a daily childcare arrangement or preschool within the next 6 months?

14.0 1 Yes (CONTINUE ON TO QUESTION 39)
72.0 2 No (SKIP TO SECTION V)
1.3 3 Don't know (SKIP TO SECTION V)
12.8 9 No answer (SKIP TO SECTION V)

39. Please describe the arrangement you plan to use.

0.0 01 In own home by spouse
0.0 02 In own home by sibling 14 years or older
0.0 03 In own home by sibling under 14 years
0.0 04 In own home by grandparent
0.0 05 In own home by other relative
0.7 06 In own home by nonrelative
0.2 07 In a grandparent's home
0.0 08 In other relative's home
0.0 09 In a friend's home
0.0 10 In a neighbor's home
1.0 11 In a family daycare home
1.2 12 In a daycare center
9.5 13 In a preschool or nursery school
0.4 14 In a program for children with special needs (PLEASE INDICATE) _____
_____
1.0 88 Other (PLEASE INDICATE) _____
86.0 99 No answer

40. What would you say is the major reason why you plan to use a childcare arrangement?

_____
_____
_____
_____

SKIP TO SECTION V

III. Now we have some additional questions about your current childcare arrangement, again for your youngest child under 6 years.

41. How is your youngest child usually cared for?

0.7 01 In own home by spouse
0.6 02 In own home by sibling 14 years or older
0.0 03 In own home by sibling under 14 years
0.7 04 In own home by grandparent
0.7 05 In own home by other relative
1.3 06 In own home by nonrelative
0.6 07 In a grandparent's home
0.0 08 In other relative's home
0.9 09 In a friend's home
1.0 10 In a neighbor's home
1.9 11 In a family daycare home
3.4 12 In a daycare center
1.0 13 In a preschool or nursery school
0.0 14 In a program for children with special needs (PLEASE INDICATE) _____

0.0 88 Other (PLEASE INDICATE) _____
87.2 99 No answer

42. About how many hours a day is your child cared for under this arrangement?

3.7 1 2 hours or less a day
4.9 2 3-5 hours a day
3.5 3 6-8 hours a day
1.3 4 More than 8 hours a day
86.6 9 No answer

43. Is this usually the only regular childcare arrangement for your youngest child?

11.5 1 Yes (SKIP TO QUESTION 45)
1.3 2 No (CONTINUE)
87.2 9 No answer (SKIP TO QUESTION 45)

44. Please describe any additional childcare arrangement for your youngest child that you make on a daily basis.

_____
_____
_____
_____

45. What happens when your child is ill with something other than a common cold?

0.7 1 Provider still cares for child
1.2 2 Other family member cares for child
0.0 3 Friend or neighbor cares for child
9.7 4 I stay home with my child
0.5 5 Sick child care center
0.0 6 Sick child home care service
0.0 7 Child stays home alone
0.7 8 Other (PLEASE INDICATE) _____
87.2 9 No answer

46. How did you find your child's caregiver?

0.0 01 Respondent provides own child care
0.0 02 Provider is family member or relative
0.0 03 Provider is neighbor or friend
0.0 04 A relative, friend, neighbor referred me
1.1 05 Child care referral organization referred me
0.0 06 Social worker or government agency referred me
0.0 07 Saw ad in newspaper or phone book
5.8 88 Other (PLEASE INDICATE) _____
93.0 99 No answer

47. About how long have you been using this arrangement?

2.8 1 Less than 6 months
3.0 2 6 months to 1 year
2.2 3 1 to 2 years
4.9 4 More than 2 years
87.2 9 No answer

48. What is the weekly fee for this arrangement?

0.0 1 More than $100 a week
0.0 2 Between $75 and $100 a week
0.0 3 Between $50 and $75 a week
4.1 4 Between $25 and $50 a week
5.5 5 Less than $25 a week
2.5 6 No charge for childcare
87.9 9 No answer

49. About how many other children besides your own child are cared for under this arrangement, during the same time period? (IF NONE, WRITE "00")

49a. Number of own children 12.8 1-3
87.2 99 No answer

49b. Number of other children 12.6 0-50
87.4 99 No answer

50. What do you like most about your current arrangement?

_____
_____
_____
_____

51. What do you like least about your current arrangement?

_____
_____
_____
_____

IV. Now I am going to read a short list of reasons that many people have for choosing a child care arrangement. Would you please tell me how important each factor was in your choice of your primary childcare arrangement. On this scale, 1 is "most important" and 5 is "least important." (CIRCLE ONE NUMBER FOR EACH QUESTION; IF NO ANSWER, CIRCLE "9")

	Most 1 or 2	3	Least 4 or 5	NA 9
52. Arrangement was the only one available at the time	1.2	3.1	7.8	87.9
53. Arrangement was the only one I could afford	1.9	1.9	7.6	88.6
54. Arrangement was close to home	9.5	0.2	3.0	87.2
55. Arrangement was close to destination	4.7	0.2	7.2	87.9
56. I wanted a family member or relative taking care of my child	3.4	0.0	8.7	87.9
57. I wanted a small, "family" atmosphere for my child	7.1	1.3	3.1	88.6
58. I wanted trained childcare workers taking care of my child	6.4	2.1	3.6	87.9
59. I wanted my child to have a structured child development program	4.6	3.0	4.5	87.9

60. Is your current childcare arrangement licensed or registered with the state?

6.6 1 Yes
6.2 9 No
0.0 9 Don't know
87.2 9 No answer

V. We would like to ask you five final questions.

61. How many preschool age children (UNDER 6) live in your household? (INCLUDES YOUNGEST CHILD UNDER 6)

45.2 1 1 Child
45.6 2 2 Children
6.8 3 3 Children
1.7 4 4 Children
0.7 9 No answer

62. What are their ages, beginning with the oldest?

(RECORD AGE)

62a.	100.0 Oldest under 6 years (1-5)		
62b.	54.3 Second oldest (1-4)	45.7	9 No additional children
62c.	8.5 Third oldest (1-4)	91.5	9 No additional children
62d.	1.7 Fourth oldest (1-3)	98.3	9 No additional children

63. How many school age children (6-18) live in your household? (IF NONE, WRITE "00")

100.0 0-6
0.0 99 No answer

64. What is your marital status?

96.1 1 Married
1.1 2 Widowed
1.6 3 Separated or divorced
1.2 4 Single/never married
0.0 9 No answer

65. What is your annual combined household income?

1.7 01 Under $5,000
4.8 02 $5,000 to $9,999
8.1 03 $10,000 to $14,999
14.0 04 $15,000 to $19,999
15.5 05 $20,000 to $24,999
23.2 06 $25,000 to $34,999
11.6 07 $35,000 to $49,999
6.9 08 $50,000 to $74,999
1.3 09 $75,000 and over
12.9 99 No answer